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Corporate Campaign off to a good start

UMass/Boston got its Corporate Campaign going on Friday, January 25th, with a breakfast at the Boston corporate headquarters of the New Bank of New England. The affair attracted 84 business executives.

The group was addressed by Lawrence K. Fish, chairman and CEO of the New Bank of New England, and several members of UMass/Boston's Corporate Campaign Leadership Committee, including Robert H. Quinn, former state attorney general and one of the legislative architects of UMass/Boston, Boston Edison chairman Stephen J. Sweeney, and Congressman Joseph P. Kennedy II, a UMass/Boston alumnus.

The Corporate Campaign, initiated in response to declining state appropriations, is seeking over \$300,000 in corporate donations to the University by the June, 1991, end of the fiscal year.

"We have cut our costs and raised our tuition and fees, but cost-cutting by itself cannot make up for our loss of state funding," Chancellor Penney told the business leaders. "If we are to keep our fine faculty on the campus . . . and prepare our graduates with a truly relevant education, we must have the understanding of and financial support from a number of non-public sources. And I count among these sources our local business community."



Members of the Corporate Campaign Leadership Committee include (left to right) New Bank of New England chairman and CEO Lawrence K. Fish; Chancellor Sherry H. Penney; attorney Robert H. Quinn, chairperson of the Committee; Stephen J. Sweeney, chairman, Boston Edison; Vice Chancellor for External Relations Edward C. O'Malley, Jr.; Agnes "Diddy" Cullinane, vice president, Cullinane Communications, Inc.; Associate Vice Chancellor for External Relations and Director of Development Albert E. Brill; and Robert T. Foley, senior vice president of the Beacon Hotel Corporation.

Center For Survey Research participates in new medical treatment program

As part of an innovative program that could one day give medical patients more control over the treatment they receive, the Center for Survey Research is collecting data from patients with prostate ailments in one phase of a comprehensive five-year study directed by the Center for the Evaluative Clinical Sciences at Dartmouth Medical School. The project is funded by the federal Agency for Health Care Policy and Research and the John A. Hartford Foundation.

Jack Fowler, a senior CSR staff member overseeing the project, calls it "... part of the movement toward having patients' values better reflected and having them more knowledgeable. If you can make patients more informed, then you can get them more involved in decisions regarding treatment."

Before deciding whether to have elective prostate surgery, program participants, more than 300 patients at hospitals and medical centers in a number of

cities nationwide, view a 30-minute interactive video, which Fowler helped produce, providing the latest scientific information on the benefits and risks of their decision. The video offers statistical probabilities on how often symptoms are relieved through surgery and how often complications occur.

Last year the video won the Gold Medal for the best education and training entry at New York's International TV and Film Festival. Fowler says that since preliminary evaluation has been encouraging, plans are now under way for creating other patient-education videos.

The Center for Survey Research, housed at UMass/Boston's Downtown Center, was founded in 1971 by the presidents of the University of Massachusetts, MIT, and Harvard. Its function, says director Mary Ellen Colten, is to conduct basic and applied research that contributes to the knowledge and understanding of critical social issues.

The University of Massachusetts Press spring and summer 1991 catalog is now available. Because of fiscal constraints, the Press is unable to distribute the catalog as widely to University faculty and staff as it has in the past. Persons wishing a copy of the catalog may obtain one from the Press's Boston Office, c/o Graduate Studies and Research, 2nd floor, Quinn Administration Building, telephone 7-5710.

Three U.S. cities model efforts on UMass/ Boston's successful Urban Scholars Program

Three cities are replicating a successful UMass/Boston educational program that has made college an attainable goal for hundreds of disadvantaged inner city high school students.

The Urban Scholars Program at UMass/Boston, which places promising high school students in advanced secondary and college-level classes, is now serving as a national demonstration project for similar programs in San Francisco, New York City, and Orlando, Florida.

UMass/Boston is allocating \$225,000 of a \$900,000 Jacob Javits Grant it received last year from the U.S. Department of Education to San Francisco State University, the City College of New York, and the University of Central Florida. Each of these institutions will receive \$25,000 annually for the next three years to fund Urban Scholars projects in their respective communities.

"Serving as a model for other institutions is a very significant accomplishment . . . because it validates the effectiveness of Urban Scholars," says Joan Becker, the program's director at the University. "We're pleased to be able to help others get started."

Nearly all of the 500 students to date who have participated in the Urban Scholars Program at UMass/Boston have gone on to college. They have enrolled at UMass/Boston and at such other institutions as Harvard, Cornell, and Brown Universities, Wellesley College, and the University of Michigan. About 100 of them have received full four-year scholarships.

The Urban Scholars Program based at UMass/Boston provides these opportunities to students from Dorchester High School, South Boston High School, and the Jeremiah E. Burke High School. Participants represent a broad range of ethnic and cultural backgrounds.



Urban Scholars students at work in a UMass/Boston science laboratory.

"Many students at these high schools, especially those from low-income, minority and other educationally disadvantaged backgrounds, achieve below their potential due to inadequate opportunities," says Charles Desmond, UMass/Boston's Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. "Urban Scholars enables them to realize their full potential."

UMass/Boston holds international trade seminars for executives

Beginning in March, University faculty members will be presenting a series of eight intensive one-day seminars on the political economy of international trade, designed to help prepare Massachusetts corporate executives and managers for the challenges of doing business in a global economy.

The seminars focus on political, cultural, and economic factors that influence the shape of international trade in a number of the world's regions. The first session, on March 13, will provide an overview of the nature of international trade, examining the international monetary system and the role of such institutions as the World Bank, OPEC, and the International Monetary Fund.

Subsequent seminars will study the challenges facing U.S. corporations that are either currently engaged in international trade or actively considering commercial ventures in any of several regions. One seminar each will be devoted to Latin America, East Asia,

Japan, Eastern Europe, and the Soviet Union. Topics of two other sessions will include the initiation, scheduled for 1992, of the European Community, a single economic entity that will include the 12 western European nations; and the changing situation in the formerly communist states of Central and Eastern Europe as they shift from centralized to market and mixed economies.

"Many government agencies already provide American businesses with information on import and export regulations and other procedural matters; we will give them the intellectual ability to enter foreign markets," says associate professor of political science Primo Vannicelli, who is coordinating the seminars. "We are going to equip those attending with a grasp of the interrelated political, cultural, and economic patterns that are emerging in countries around the globe."

According to Vannicelli, each seminar is limited to 25 participants so that instructors can provide individualized

attention. The seminars are sponsored by the program in international relations and the departments of political science and history. They will be held at the University's Downtown Center on the corner of Arlington and Stuart Streets in Boston's Park Plaza section.

"We are encouraging participants prior to attending the seminars to consider some of the issues pertinent to their businesses," Vannicelli says. "This will enable us to prepare presentations that will deal specifically with their questions."

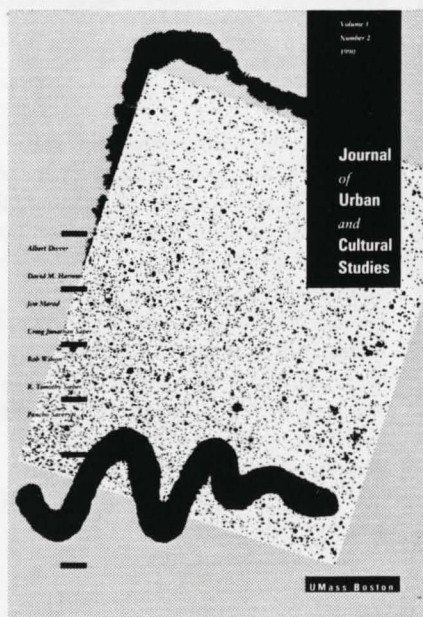
This series of seminars exemplifies the kind of cooperative effort that brings together UMass/Boston faculty members with groups of interested learners who are not necessarily University students, but who wish to benefit from classes and seminars in particular fields. Faculty members interested in participating in such community-based teaching may contact John Hughes at the Division of Continuing Education (287-7290).

Faculty Notes

Peter Kiang, a lecturer in American studies and sociology and a research associate at the Joiner Center, received one of the Massachusetts Teachers Association's Human and Civil Rights awards at an MTA conference in Marlborough on January 12th. His other achievements include award-winning articles and documentary videos; in 1985 Boston Magazine cited his influence as a leader in the Asian-American community.

Sherry L. Merrow of the College of Nursing gave two presentations early this month at professional conferences in San Francisco. The first was on the use of physical assessment skills by registered nurse baccalaureate students, at the Council of the Society for Research in Nursing Education. The second, in which Professor Merrow collaborated with Charlotte Colbert of the University's Adaptive Computer Lab, was a paper called "Adaptive Computing for People with Disabilities."

Members of the English Department and the Graduate Program in Bilingual Education/ESL Studies recently created the *Journal of Urban and Cultural Studies*, which has just brought out its second issue. Albert Divver, Susan Horton, Donald Macedo, and Candace Mitchell form the editorial board of the publication, which, according to its first issue, "exercises a critical interest in urban issues . . . [drawing on] a wide range of disciplines including, among others, anthropology, history, linguistics, and political science." Major scholars nationally and internationally have celebrated the *Journal* as timely and important for the advancement of theoretical discourse in culture and urban studies.



Robert Bowen serves on national panel addressing seafood safety regulations

Robert Bowen, associate professor of environmental sciences, recently served on a National Academy of Sciences committee which reported to federal officials that the best way to lower the health risks associated with eating seafood is to reduce pollution in waters where fish and shellfish are harvested.

The committee of thirteen experts in biology, chemistry, environmental sciences, nutrition and other areas, has published a 440-page report on the sources and level of risk in eating seafood, and on the effectiveness of federal and state regulatory efforts.

The study was requested by federal officials assessing the possibility of developing a mandatory seafood inspection program. The issue is likely to be debated in the current session of Congress.

"This is the most comprehensive analysis ever done on seafood safety," says Bowen, who also chaired a panel subcommittee looking into regulation and legislation affecting the seafood business.

In its report the committee, part of the Academy's Institute of Medicine, asserts that while most seafood consumed in this country is unlikely to cause illness, certain fish, particularly raw shellfish such as oysters, clams, and mussels, can pose a threat.

"In general," says Bowen, "Eating raw seafood in any form is not an enlightened practice."

In addition to urging the cleanup of coastal waters where fish are harvested, the panel asserted that the chances for seafood poisoning could be greatly reduced by inspecting fish at certain "critical control points," for instance when they are first caught, and when they reach processing plants.

"The government needs to take a more active role in preventing contaminated seafood from reaching markets and restaurants," says Bowen.

The committee also calls for responsible federal agencies to expand their authority, reevaluate their ways of measuring pollution, and create uniform standards on seafood safety which would be disseminated throughout the fishing industry.

In addition, the committee suggests, federal inspectors could more effectively inspect seafood by replacing traditional methods with more modern techniques.

As it is, only a small portion of the 16 pounds of seafood consumed annually by the average American is inspected at all. Fish and shellfish caught recreationally, which account for about a fifth of what's eaten in this country, are hardly ever inspected.

Even in Massachusetts, where state regulators "are among the most responsible in the country," Bowen says, the vast majority of seafood harvested from coastal waters is never examined for safety.

He added that since about 60 percent of the commercial seafood consumed in the United States is imported, regulators also should pursue agreements with foreign authorities and producers to ensure that imported seafood meets guidelines that are equivalent to those in the United States.

News & Views invites the UMass/Boston community to submit news items for possible publication, and particularly requests news of faculty activities appropriate for "Faculty Notes."

**Please address all items to:
Walter D. Littell, Chancellor's Office
University of Massachusetts at Boston
Harbor Campus
Boston, MA 02125-3393.**

UMass/Boston study reports that many elderly in the United States are "shelter poor," paying more for housing than they can afford

A study published last month by the Gerontology Institute asserts that 31 percent of the nation's 19.5 million elderly households are "shelter poor," paying so much to keep a roof over their heads that they don't have enough money left for food, clothing, medical insurance, transportation, and other necessities. The study is called *Housing Affordability and the Elderly: Definition, Dimensions, Policies*.

According to its author, Professor Michael E. Stone of the Community Planning Center at CPCS, the study shows that many householders age 65 and older pay more for housing than they can afford. He says the concept of "shelter poverty" accurately characterizes the situation of those who cannot meet their non-housing needs because of the impact of housing costs on their incomes. Generally, he maintains, housing costs are what people pay for first out of their disposable income. Other basic necessities, then, must be purchased with whatever is left over of the family budget.

"When we say a household is paying more than it can afford for housing," says Professor Stone, "what we really

mean is that after paying for shelter, its members are unable to meet their non-shelter needs at some minimum level of adequacy."

The shelter poverty concept implies that there is no fixed percentage of income to be spent on shelter that will automatically result in adequate housing. Instead, says Professor Stone, assessment should be done on a sliding scale; affordability, then, means that "lower-income and larger households [should be] able to spend a lower percentage of their incomes on housing than higher-income and smaller households ... The shelter poverty standard of affordability demonstrates ... that many elderly households, especially those with low incomes, can actually afford much less than the traditional 25 percent of income, or the more recent 30 percent of income standard that housing authorities have used."

The report on housing affordability is based on data contained in a wide range of public and private sector reports and studies. Professor Stone, who holds a Ph.D. from Princeton University, is the author of many articles and studies in the housing field, including *One-Third of a Nation: A*

New Look at Housing Affordability in America, published last August by the Economic Policy Institute in Washington, D.C. That study reported that 78 million Americans, one-third of the nation's population, are shelter poor.

Professor Stone's findings on elderly housing indicate, among other things, that elderly women bear the heaviest burden of shelter poverty, that more than 70 percent of older renters do not live in subsidized housing and thus pay market rates, and that black and Latino elderly are more likely to be shelter poor, because of lower incomes. The report's recommendations for addressing the problem of shelter poverty include a combination of housing and income support policies at the federal level.

The Gerontology Institute, under the direction of CPCS associate professor Scott Bass, was established in 1984 to further UMass/Boston's commitment to the study and development of social policies on aging. The Institute conducts research and assists organizations in analyzing policy issues and formulating policy options on matters of concern to the elderly.



Father Thomas J. McDonnell (center), pastor of St. Augustine's parish in South Boston, is shown here receiving the second annual Robert H. Quinn Outstanding Community Leadership Award, given at a breakfast in his honor on Saturday, January 26. Father McDonnell was cited for his "devotion to the people of his parish," and for his articles in the *Pilot*, the archdiocesan newspaper. Father McDonnell is shown here with former Massachusetts Speaker of the House and Attorney General Robert H. Quinn (left), one of the architects of the legislation that created UMass/Boston, and Dorchester's Ed Forry, editor and publisher of the *Reporter*, who was the first recipient of the Quinn Award.

Health Service staff member commended for quick action

A UMass/Boston professional staff member doing her job recently helped a student in a potentially life-threatening situation. On February 4th, Lorraine Kelly, Acting Nurse Coordinator for General Medicine at the University Health Service, performed the Heimlich Maneuver to assist a student choking on a piece of food. The student was transported to the hospital for further evaluation, and Ms. Kelly received thanks and commendation for her quick, alert, and professional action in a health emergency.